

Message Text

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47

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 EA-11 NEA-10 ADP-00 EB-11 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 IO-12 AID-20 COME-00

INT-08 OPIC-12 OMB-01 OEP-01 T-03 CIEP-02 RSR-01 /209 W
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R 142145 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9076

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

USINT ALGIERS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG VE OPEC

SUBJECT: OPEC AS CHAMPION OF LDC INTERESTS

1. VENEZUELAN MINISTER OF MINES AND HYDROCARBONS
HUGO PEREZ LA SALVIA REPORTEDLY TOLD PRESS MARCH 13
ON EVE OF HIS DEPARTURE FOR EXTRAORDINARY
SESSION OF OPEC IN VIENNA THAT OPEC COULD UNDER-
TAKE NEGOTIATIONS THROUGH WHICH HIGHLY DEVELOPED
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COUNTRIES WOULD GIVE MORE FAVORABLE TREATMENT TO UNDERDEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

2. PEREZ SAID THAT IT IS NECESSARY TO ARRIVE AT NEW SITUATION BETWEEN DEVELOPED COUNTRIES WHICH ARE CONSUMERS OF ENERGY AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES THAT SUPPLY ENERGY AND ARE MEMBERS OF OPEC. HE SAID DEVELOPED COUNTRIES CONTROL RICH MARKET-- THEIR OWN MARKET-- FOR FINAL PRODUCTS, AND MAINTAIN LIMITATIONS ON PARTICIPATION IN THIS MARKET OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. IN ADDITION TO CONTROLLING THIS RICH MARKET THEY ALSO HAVE PART OF POOR MARKETS OF UNDER- DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. THIS SITUATION SHOULD BE NEGOTIATED SO THAT THERE BE JUSTICE IN THE WORLD, AND MEMBERS OF OPEC HAVE IMPORTANT INSTRUMENT-- ENERGY-- IN THEIR POWER TO ASSURE CHANGE.

3. WHILE SUGGESTING WHAT DEVELOPED COUNTRIES SHOULD DO FOR POOR, PEREZ DID NOT SEEM EMBARRASSED TO STATE IN SAME PRESS CONFERENCE THAT VENEZUELA HAS NO INTENTION OF DOING ANYTHING SIGNIFICANT ITSELF FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WHICH ARE SUFFERING FROM INCREASING COSTS OF OIL IMPORTS. HE SAID VENEZUELA HAS BEEN CLEAR IN SENSE THAT IT DOES NOT CONSIDER IT CONVENIENT TO ESTABLISH PRE FERENTIAL TREATMENT IN OIL PRICES. PRICES MUST REMAIN EQUAL , HE SAID, BUT OTHER METHODS COULD BE ADOPTED, SUCH AS AN IMPROVED COMMERCIAL EXCHANGE BETWEEN VENEZUELA AND THOSE COUNTRIES, AND CREATION OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS TO FINANCE ENERGY PROJECTS, BUT, HE ADDED, VENEZUELA DOES NOT SUPPORT IDEA OF PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT WITH REGARD TO PRICES.

4. PEREZ SAID THAT VENEZUELA WILL BRING TO EXTRA-ORDINARY CONFERENCE OF OPEC AN ANALYSIS (PRESUMABLY OF THE WORLD ENERGY CRISIS) WITH SOME CONCRETE PROPOSALS. HE SAID HE DID NOT THINK IT PROBABLE THAT ACCORD WOULD BE REACHED TO ESTABLISH ROUND TABLE BETWEEN OIL PRODUCING AND CONSUMING COUNTRIES BUT THAT THIS MATTER SHOULD BE STUDIED WITHIN OPEC. HE SAID IT IS POSSIBLE THAT SOME DELEGATES WILL RAISE QUESTION OF PRICES, BUT WITH REGARD TO POSSIBILITY OF REVISION OF GENEVA AGREEMENT, HE SAID HE COULD NOT SPEAK FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OTHER MINISTERS. HE SAID VENEZUELA WOULD ADOPT A

POSITION OF SOLIDARITY ON ACTIONS DECIDED UPON BY OPEC.
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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TAGS: ENRG, LE, VE, OPEC
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BEIRUT
JAKARTA
JIDDA
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